

Red Wing Public Schools
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

Red Wing
 Public Schools
 ISD # 256



Phone 651.385.4500

www.rwps.org

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Transportation Options
 Contact(s):
 Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
 Board Information or Report

Introduction

To assist families with planning for next year, the board will consider transportation arrangements for the upcoming school year. The following chart shows the grade configurations and planned length of the student instructional day for each building:

Building	Grade Levels	Preferred Length of Instructional Day Timing of Entry Bell
Colvill	Early Childhood	2:30 hours in morning 2:30 hours in afternoon Prefer earlier start
Sunnyside	Early Childhood – Grade 1	6:30 or 6:45 hours Entry bell 5 minutes before start
Burnside	Grades 2-4	6:30 or 6:45 hours Entry bell 5 minutes before start
Twin Bluff	Grades 5-7	6:45 hours Entry bell 5 minutes before start
Red Wing High School	Grades 8-12	7:00 hours Entry bell 5 minutes before start

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One-Tier or Two-Tier Transportation

A one-tier system in 2022-23 is likely to cost at least \$650,000 more than a two-tier system:

Two-Tier

Estimated number of buses for 4 hours	20
Cost per bus per day	\$389.92
Cost per day	\$7,798.40
Cost per year with 170 days	\$1,325,728

One-Tier

Estimated number of buses for 3 hours	27
Cost per bus per day (previous contract)	\$405.35
Cost per day (previous contract)	\$10,944.45
Cost per year with 170 days (previous contract)	\$1,860,557
Cost per year with 170 days (renegotiated contract assuming 6% increase)	\$1,972,190

The likely \$650,000 increase in costs for a one-tier system would be in addition to the \$1.4+ million shortfall in 2022-23 school year. This means additional reductions and possible inability to meet operating levy referendum promises. One option is to request additional levy authority through a referendum, but significant financial decisions and planning would need to occur before promises are made to voters.

Recommendations

I move to continue with a two-tier transportation system in the 2022-23 school year.

I move to transport secondary students on the first transportation tier.

Option 1 EXAMPLE of Transportation: Two-Tier System with Secondary, then Elementary

School	Grades	Estimated Bus Drop-Off	Estimated School Times	Estimated Bus Arrival
Sunnyside	K-1	9:05	9:15-3:45	3:35
Burnside	2-4	8:50	9:00-3:30	3:20
Twin Bluff	5-7	7:30	7:40-2:25	2:15
RWHS	8-12	7:20	7:40-2:30	2:25

CESO Notes:

- K-4 ride together and 5-12 ride together.
- Colvill, St. Johns ride at same times as first tier. New charter school rides second tier.
- Short time between end of day at Twin Bluff and RWHS.
- There would be few, if any, transfers.
- Starting and ending times will be adjusted as planning progresses.

Pros:

- High school students in activities and athletics miss less school due to earlier dismissal. (See attachments showing impact of this year's later start times at the secondary level.)
- Schedule is better for students with after-school jobs.

Cons:

- Another significant change for families.
- Research supports later start times for high school students.
- High school students in activities & athletics have shorter nights after events in other towns.
- Longer time between elementary & secondary starting/ending times because the high school day is longer.
- Attendance for high school students may be negatively impacted.

Option 2 EXAMPLE of Transportation: Two-Tier System with Elementary, then Secondary

School	Grades	Estimated Bus Drop-Off	Estimated School Times	Estimated Bus Arrival
Sunnyside	K-1	7:20	7:30-2:00	1:50
Burnside	2-4	7:35	7:45-2:15	2:05
Twin Bluff	5-7	8:45	8:55-3:40	3:30
RWHS	8-12	8:35	8:45-3:50	3:45

CESO Notes:

- K-4 ride together and 5-12 ride together.
- St. John's and charter school ride at same time as first tier.
- Colvill rides at same time as second tier.
- There would be few, if any, transfers.
- Starting and ending times will be adjusted as planning progresses.

Pros:

- Change not as significant for families.
- Research supports later start times for high school students.
- High school students in activities & athletics have longer nights after events in other towns.
- Shorter time between elementary & secondary starting/ending times because the elementary school day is shorter.

Cons:

- High school students in activities and athletics miss more school due to later dismissal
- Schedule is worse for students with after-school jobs.

Option 3 EXAMPLE of Transportation: One-Tier System

School	Grades	Estimated Bus Drop-Off	Estimated School Times	Estimated Bus Arrival
Sunnyside	K-1	7:55-8:00	8:25-2:55	2:55-3:15
Burnside	2-4	7:20-7:55	8:10 - 2:45	2:45-3:25
Twin Bluff	5-7	7:35-8:00	8:10 - 3:00	3:10
RWHS	8-12	7:30-7:50	8:05 - 2:40	2:35-2:45

Pros:

- Elementary and secondary students in the same family would ride bus together.
- Easier for families to plan for daycare.
- Easier to shift starting and ending times to student and adult needs.

Cons:

- K-12 students ride together.
- More transfers are needed.
- Contract would be renegotiated during a time of driver shortages and increasing fuel costs.
- Challenging to find enough drivers, especially when many would be part-time positions.
- The estimated \$650,000 increase in costs to implement a one-tier system would be in addition to the \$1.4+ million shortfall in 2022-23 school year. This means additional reductions and possible inability to meet operating levy referendum promises.